

The Independent

Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

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DIGGING IN



A farmer working his land on Ebenezer Road west of Alvinston is engulfed by dust Monday afternoon. Many farmers are preparing the land for this year’s plant. Much of Lambton County’s land is still too cold for the seeds yet.

Discovery Line development a year away

Heather Wright
The Independent

The trees are gone, but Petrolia’s mayor says it will be at least a year before a London based developer will be ready to build what could be a very large subdivision on Discovery Line.

Neighbours of Woodland Estates were shocked in early May to find heavy equipment removing brush behind their homes. It was part of a large tract that stretches to Discovery Line.

Trees had been removed on Discovery Line sometime after 2019, according to photos on Google Maps. And the contractor had also worked on the right-of-way currently owned by the Town of Petrolia, Mayor Brade Loosely says.

The town purchased the land from Giampietri Construction in July 2020 for \$200,000. When the Woodland subdivision was built, easements to build roadways into the Discovery Line area were not negotiated by the town.

Council picked up the cost of the right-of-way in 2020, saying the new developer in the area would eventually bring in the revenue to cover the cost of repairing the mistake. Loosley says the town has begun working with the developer already.

The Independent has learned a company called MI 637 has bought 64 acres of land in the Discovery Line/Stanley Street area since October 2020. It paid \$2,050,000 for the land which can link to Woodland Estates.

Documents from the provincial government show the company was formed in May 2020 with Tyler Murphy as the president of what appears to be a family run group.

The address associated with MI 637 is home to two companies, Murphy Contracting and Murphy Machining. Murphy Contracting provides heavy equipment to southwestern Ontario’s construction industry.

Local engineer, Ray Dobbin, is acting for the company however Dobbin had not answered a request for an interview by press time.

SEE SUBDIVISION PG 2

From vibrant to ‘completely decimated’

Petrolia’s largest restaurant will change hands

Heather Wright
The Independent

Jenna Gorzeman says her restaurant went from super vibrant to “completely decimated” since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

So, after 10 years of running the Crabby Joe’s franchise in Petrolia, she’s turning it back to Obsidian Group and getting out of the restaurant business.

The group negotiated a 20-year lease on the building and Gorzeman, at 23, took on a 10-year francise agreement and opened the restaurant doors. The community support carried her through nine good years, until business came to a halt during the pandemic.

In the last few weeks, representatives from Obsidian Group called to ask how they would proceed with the next 10 years.

“I decided that it just wasn’t worth it. So I said ‘you know what, actually, I’m going to hand the reins back over to you.’”

Sunday, Gorzeman and her crew will close the doors for the last time. Obsidian will take over and may rebrand the restaurant. “They’re hoping to retain as many staff here as want to stay basically and then carry forward.”

Gorzeman tells *The Independent* there were a number of factors behind the decision including the change in her personal life from a single person to mother of three.

But the biggest factor was more than a year of trying to follow the provincial government’s regulations to control the pandemic and how that has taken a toll on the business.

In 2019, Gorzeman says, the restaurant in Petrolia’s downtown employed 50 people and pulled in \$2.5 million. The pandemic rolled in and chopped that to \$1.5 million in 2020.

SEE PANDEMIC PG 2

We answer the call

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Pandemic ‘decimates’ restaurant business

CON’T FROM PG 1

So far this year, Gorzeman says they may have brought in \$300,000 at best.

With over 5,500 square feet, it’s been hard to scale back to a takeout only operation.

Gorzeman says they’ve taken advantage of all the government help that’s been available, including wage subsidies, but with a larger restaurant, a business grant of \$20,000 doesn’t even cover a month of bills. “It’s not even keeping the business afloat,” she says.

“The amount of time and especially stress that’s been associated with this business that was super vibrant and viable and has now been basically completely decimated; I just can’t handle it anymore, to be honest. It’s a lot of stress,” she says.

Much of the pressure came from the constant changes restaurants across the province were told to make as the COVID-19 virus hit, receded and then roared back again.

“Every single time it happens, we have to gear up and gear down so significantly with our inventory, with our staff... it’s like every three, four or five weeks. And it’s exhausting.

“Actually, I don’t have it in me to do this anymore because I’m fatigued. I’m emotionally exhausted. And to what end? Because I feel like the future for these large spaces is really uncertain, because it lies so much in what the government allows us to do. And that scares me.”

So, for the near future, Gorzeman will focus on the revitalization of Kingswell Glen Golf Club and hopes in the near future to make progress on the proposed Kingswell Hotel. It had to be put on hold as material costs drove up the cost of construction.

Gorzeman, who earlier expressed frustration with how COVID-19 regulations affect businesses in a letter to the editor, says governments should remember that even with large scale programs to help businesses get through this pandemic, it is not enough to keep every business open.

“I think there’s a much greater impact on the actions that people take than they recognize,” she says adding government shouldn’t “underestimate the power that small communities and small businesses in those communities, the power that they have for the mental health and well being of our people.”



A Google map view dated 2019 shows a bush on Discovery Line. It has now been cleared along with the lot below, which backs onto Woodland Estates. A London based company is expected to build a subdivision in the 64 acres it recently purchased in the area.



Subdivision a year off: Loosley

CON’T FROM PG 1

Some Woodland Estates residents called the Woodlot bylaw officer to the area. Tim Payne investigated and said while the developer should have sought the county’s approval, the bush didn’t meet the definition of a woodlot and could be removed.

The new owners have faced criticism for removing bush in the area and some of the anger has been directed toward the town. But Loosley says the town has no control over what private property owners do on their own land.

“Usually developers do let us know when they’re taking some of these trees down even though they’re on private property,” Loosley added.

He conceded the town does advise developers on procedure, including creating a detailed book for them with steps to follow, but he maintains for the most part, clearing woodlots is a county issue.


But a portion of the town’s newly acquired right of way has also been damaged, says Loosley. Town staff is dealing with the issue with the developers, writing letters explaining where the town property is. Loosley suggested if the issue wasn’t resolve the town could lay trespassing charges.

For now, the mayor says the town is working with the developer on the 64 acre site. But he says it will be some time before the shovel is in the ground.


“I figured we’re probably another year away before anything comes (to council) regarding public issue,” says Loosley. “Maybe they will go sooner, but they still haven’t even got started with what we call a plan of subdivision and as far as the things they need to do.”

Loosley adds at that time there will be plenty of opportunity for public input on the proposed subdivision including at the rezoning stage.


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Charlotte's Corner

COVID-19: Petrolia response supports provincial strategy

*By Dr. Charles Winegard,
Medical Director, Charlotte Eleanor
Englehart Hospital of Bluewater Health*

Well over a year into this pandemic, I know many of you are feeling fatigued and frustrated with the need to follow public health guidelines, the changing restrictions, and the ever growing impacts on business, workers, and all of our lives.

However, there is much to be proud of as well. Petrolia, and our surrounding community, has shined as an example of nimbleness in response to the pandemic. The connectedness that makes Petrolia such a great place to live, set us up to respond well. As COVID hit Ontario, and the need for testing arose, our partners – including the Central Lambton Family Health Team and North Lambton Community Health Centre among others – pulled together to quickly setup drive-through testing for rural Lambton. This is a true testament to the strength of our community partners. And, as numbers ebb and flow and demand for testing changes, they continue that dexterity to meet our community’s needs.

While our numbers have improved locally, the province is going through a serious third wave that’s straining healthcare resources across Ontario. This wave of the pandemic is proving to be the worst to date, with longer stays for critical care and younger patients being admitted to the ICU. Hospitals in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) have reached their breaking point and are transferring patients to other parts of the province, including Bluewater Health. We made the strategic decision to keep Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital (CEEH) of Bluewater Health as a ‘clean site,’ cohorting COVID-positive patients at the Sarnia hospital. To best support the provincial strategy, our Petrolia physician team adopted a new coverage model, making them available around the clock to accept patient transfers from outside of the community. Without fail, the healthcare teams in Petrolia have been incredibly flexible in how they support our patients, our community and our provincial partners.

There is light at the end of the tunnel. Almost half of Lambton County’s adult population has already received at least one vaccine dose, and we hope this protection is extended to the majority of our residents over the next few weeks. Lambton Public Health is distributing vaccines as quickly as they receive them – both through vaccination clinics and partnership with primary care. Our neighbours at CLFHT were the first in our area to participate in a pilot designed to increase access to immunizations to eligible patients in the region and expand vaccine distribution channels. Physicians affiliated with the health team, along with a full complement of staff, students and retired nurses rallied to administer over 1,000 doses to their highest-need patients.

While a hopeful return to ‘normal’ is in sight, it’s critical that we all continue to do our part to follow all public health measures to reduce exposure to COVID-19: stay home if possible, wear a mask, clean your hands frequently, keep contact with members of your household only, maintain physical distance around those outside our household, and get vaccinated when you are eligible.

Please support local businesses – stores, restaurants, and other merchants – charities, and food banks if you are able. And, please remember to be kind to each other. It can make all the difference.

Stay-at-Home order could stretch to June

Heather Wright
The Independent

There are hints the province will be extending the Stay-at-Home orders to continue the battle against COVID-19. The Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health wants the number of cases per day to go “well below 1,000” before Ontario considers easing any of the restrictions that are in place. Ontario has not seen under 1,000 cases per day since October. The province issued the order April 8 saying it could be lifted as early as May 20. The number of people contracting the virus soared over 4,000 cases a day - the highest amount since the pandemic began. Tuesday, there were 2,073 new cases, the lowest number in seven weeks. There were 1,782 people in hospital including 802 in ICU. Williams is “cautiously

optimistic” the curve of the third wave is bending but is “still slightly above the peak in the second wave.” He added Ontario waited for the case numbers to go down to 1,000 cases per day but loosened restrictions too soon. Williams suggested to reporters Monday he might want to see the cases fall to about 500 per day and have 70 per cent of adults vaccinated before easing restrictions. He says to do otherwise could cause a fourth wave and cause more confusion. “This open, close, open, close is perplexing to people,” he says. “So when we’re down, we’d like to make sure we’re opening up in the right time and the right way; slow and steady - that’s our goal.” Health Minister Christine Elliott confirmed the Conservative government is considering extending the order into June.

Meantime the vaccine rollout in Lambton has now reached over 45 per cent of the eligible population. Public health officials say 52,257 people have been given the first dose, 3,190 people have received two doses. Dr. Sudit Ranade says Lambton is expected to receive a steady level of vaccines – about 5,000 per week – but the supply may increase in the second and third weeks. There were 64 new cases of COVID-19 in Lambton in the last week. Seven of those were at Afton Park Place Nursing Home in Sarnia where two residents and five staff are ill. There is also an outbreak at Bluewater Health’s acute medicine unit with three patients testing COVID-19 positive. And Tuesday, the province decided to stop giving AstraZeneca as a first dose citing increasing concerns about blood clots in patients.

No GTA COVID-19 patients expected for now

Heather Wright
The Independent

Bluewater Health’s COVID-19 unit won’t be accepting any new patients this week. That according to the Chief of Staff, Dr. Michael Haddad. He says because the specialized unit is full and the acute medicine unit is in outbreak for the virus, transfers to Sarnia to ease the strain in intensive care units in the Greater Toronto Area will stop for a week. And it is likely a welcome break. Over the weekend, the

ICU at Bluewater Health was at 122 per cent capacity with more people needing intensive help than there were beds. Haddad says most were people transferred from GTA. And he says it has been very difficult for their families to be separated and health care workers having to explain what’s going on. “There’s an element of establishing trust, because they don’t know what Bluewater Health is. They don’t know what we do, or how good we are,” he says. Explaining complex problems also takes more time remotely.

But Haddad says they do the best they can to provide comfort and help them reach out to their families by video conferencing. “You know, we can’t replace family, but they do their best to provide the human touch,” he says. The past week was difficult for the hospital - two of the GTA patients died. But Haddad is hopeful saying the number of people in intensive care units across the province is slowly declining and that is encouraging for health care workers to see.

Winding stretch of Rokeby Line eroding

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Drivers may soon see some big changes to Rokeby Line in Enniskillen Township. An environmental assessment is underway as part of stabilization efforts for Rokeby Line at Bear Creek. The road - which snakes through a valley - and slope to the creek west of the bridge has been eroding away. “As much as the township continues to try to provide some stabilization to the pavement on it, the ground seems to be

continuing to move,” says Councillor Judy Krall. The engineering for the environmental assessment is estimated to cost around \$57,000. There’s been \$35,000 budgeted for the project this year. All engineering work is being conducted by Goderich company B.M. Ross and Associates. A recent notice from the township outlined many potential solutions, including “erosion protection installed at the toe of the slope, stabilization of the slope through regrading and use

of vegetation, relocation of Rokeby Line adjacent to the creek or a combination of the above.” Krall says it’s “very possible” Rokeby Line could be straightened out at the northbound curve west of Plowing Match Road. Whether this straightening takes place or not, the road is likely to be closed at some point for repairs. The environmental screening process will gather information and public comments until May 28.

- THE INDEPENDENT

LCCVI students going 100 km for Frazer

The Independent

Four LCCVI students are pitching in to help a young Forest boy facing significant medical problems. Jace McGrail, Victor Tan, Ty Moffat and Trevor Syer will be running, rollerblading and biking 25 km each - 100 km combined - of the Reece’s Corners to Wyoming Trail Saturday

raising money for Frazer Anderson. The nine-year-old went to an eye appointment in April because he had double vision and headaches. Doctors found a tumour. It’s been removed and it’s benign. McGrail says the family is still dealing with complications. So, the teens decided to help. “We just thought that there’s nothing else going on right

now. And we’re doing lots of workouts here anyways, so we might as well put our workouts to good use and help somebody in need,” he says. The friends will complete the event Saturday. Donation cheques can be made out to Tim and Jess Anderson or transferred to Stevemcgrail@hotmail.com. Everything raised will go directly to the family.

FRESH PAVEMENT



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Shiloh Line in Enniskillen Township is one of the first roads in the county to get a fresh coat of pavement in 2021. Workers were working near the Shiloh United Church on Monday and the heat from the pavement in the cooler air created a mirror effect.

TOP TIPS FOR EXERCISING AT HOME

With the warmer months around the corner, many are taking advantage of the outdoors to practice yoga, run, cycle, weight lift, and perform other exercises to stay mentally and physically fit. However, this may increase risk of injury if not conducted properly. Here are some things to consider:



FOOTWEAR

Make sure your choice of footwear is tailored to the type of exercise you’re doing to prevent slips and falls. You should either be wearing shoes or be barefoot if you’re using a mat.

SPACE

Make sure the space around you is clear of things you can trip on, such as toys.

PROPS

Use proper household items to substitute for weights and dumbbells, such as a water or laundry jug. Stools and chairs: If using a stool or chair to support your workout, make sure that it is stable and has a wide base of support.

STOOLS AND CHAIRS

If using a stool or chair to support your workout, make sure that it is stable and has a wide base of support.



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Editorial

Scratching the surface of COVID’s economic fallout

It is undeniable COVID-19 kills people.
It is also undeniable the affects of the 14-month long pandemic are going to change the landscape of our small towns, no matter how rosy the picture successive governments will try to paint.
Since COVID-19 hit Canadian soil, at least half a dozen businesses in Petrolia alone have closed their doors. Some moved permanently online, others simply didn’t have the cash to continue.
Today’s front page story about the largest restaurant being turned back to the francise is the latest blow, particularly because up to 50 people once worked inside. Their future is even more uncertain now than COVID-19 made it in March.
The owners say they understand the need to stop the spread of COVID-19, but the constant opening and closing of the economy by the provincial government was too much. Supplies would be ordered only to go bad when the rules of the game were changed. Could they or couldn’t they run a patio? Could they have live music? Could a 5,500 square-foot restaurant turn into a takeout business?

The answer was ultimately no.
We’re sure this isn’t the only business asking how much longer it can survive. Only time will tell how many businesses are left standing by the time everyone has been vaccinated.
There are bright spots; entrepreneurs are an optimist bunch, so there are some new businesses opening, too. Notice how they’re mainly food retailers who chose small shops to accommodate takeout service only?
What does that mean for Central Lambton’s ability to entertain visitors who we hope will return? What does it mean for the people who used to wait tables?
There are so many layers to the economic impact of this pandemic, government - both local, provincial and federal - haven’t even begun to scratch the surface of how this will effect the community in the long run. As the owner of Crabby Joe’s says “Don’t underestimate the power that small communities and small businesses ... have for the mental health and well being of our people.”

Letters to the Editor

The Independent welcomes Letters to the Editor. Our preferred methods to receive letters are via email to news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca (please use Letter in the subject line) or through our website www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca. You can also deliver letters to *The Independent* at 4156 Petrolia Line, Petrolia or drop them in the mail at *The Independent*, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0. *The Independent* reserves the right to edit letters for brevity and clarity. All letters need to be signed and must have a phone number for verification.

Our Story



FROM THE DAVE BURWELL POSTCARD COLLECTION

A look at historic Glenview Golf Course back when it was first developed. Today’s owners, Jenna and Joe Gorzeman received council approval to add the course, built in late 1892, as a historic site under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Musings on a Lambton councillor’s COVID questions

Generally, I avoid all things politics in Sarnia. There are enough ...errr... interesting things going on in Petrolia and Central Lambton to keep me busy.
But I’m jumping the shark to ask a simple question; how did Margaret Bird get elected as a Sarnia City/ County Councillor.
I’ve known Ms. Bird for some time. Before politics, she was a writer and a musician who would often approach local media with story ideas about her latest book or appearance of her band at the local farmers market. She was assertive, to put it politely, in her requests for coverage.
Then, she was elected to county council in the 2018 municipal election. I was surprised and curious; just how would Bird’s manner play out on the floor of county council. Well, now I know.
Bird likes to “research” issues and go on, at length, about what public officials from the province or other municipalities think about the issue which the staff has already. Those investigations find Lambton County officials were right - it is a real issue. And she has a solution which usually causes confusion and is gently debunked by staff.

Bird also has some interesting ideas about long term care. Bird once suggested using heavy shower curtains to stop COVID-19 from spreading to residents in semi private rooms in county-owned homes. The county’s homes have not had one case of COVID-19 in residents, just a few staff members.
But perhaps most disturbing and frankly dangerous, are Bird’s questions and theories about COVID-19.
Bird has suggested the vaccine is being forced on the elderly in long term care because they can’t consent. Every family gives consent for a vaccine for residents who can’t make their own decision.
Bird suggested May 5 that a ‘large percentage’ of people contracting COVID-19 have been vaccinated. Not true, according to the medical officer of health, far more people without vaccines get COVID.
And then, Bird started asking detailed questions about COVID-19 testing. She wanted to know about the exact use of the PCR tests and who makes those decisions. Most people likely glazed over as she asked, however it signals alarm bells with me. People who deny COVID - who believe it is a

vast conspiracy by world government - like to talk about PCR tests and how they’re rigged to produce more COVID cases and to perpetuate what they say is the “myth” of COVID.
Ms. Bird is obviously diving deep into the conspiracy end of the pool. This is a person making decisions on behalf of the people of Sarnia and Lambton County.
The good news is, her fellow councillors seem to distance themselves. The councillor wanted to speak for the county at a forum on reforming the Ontario Municipal Act including penalties for municipal councillors. Several councillors were “very concerned individual viewpoints would be seen to represent the consensus of the county.” Translation; Bird doesn’t speak for us.
So, why does she speak for the people of Sarnia and Lambton?



Heather Wright

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Publisher / Editor: Heather Wright
news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca
Reporters: Alex Kurial
Sales Associates: sales@petrolialambtonindependent.ca
Classifieds / Graphics: Sarah Hills / Julli Archibald
office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

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Opinion

Neighbours want ‘corrective action’ for cutting bush

EDITOR: Re story in *The Independent* May 6, 2021 “*Approval needed before bush removed*”

As residents of this area, we were disappointed that land clearing had been initiated in the spring of 2020, and subsequently halted after questions were posed about land zoning.

To discover it had resumed in the spring of 2021 without any prior notification to the town, was extremely disconcerting.

The Independent article identified the mayor as stating: “Someone moved ahead without consulting the town”; They “have to get the necessary approval to start”; They “have to get the necessary approval to do those

types of things”; and “There’s no fast tracking, everything will be done according to the way it should be.”

Are there zoning application rules? Will such actions impede the zoning process or will it be approached with indifference?

Statements, without a doubt, lead to questions of expectations and accountability.

Are any penalties to be levied if the unsanctioned clearing truly contravenes the required?

Like many of our neighbours, we enjoyed the beauty of this ‘woodlot’. Although it was private property, adults and children alike appreciated its serenity and delighted in the

wildlife that this area until recently, drew.

Emotions aside however, what form of discipline will those that forego the mandated approval processes face? Regulations are instituted for a purpose.

It appears to us that utter disregard for the regulations has transpired.

Without ramifications for such actions, what will prevent the same occurrences in the future?

We look forward to the course corrective action that needs to take place.

Patrick Maloney
Petrolia, ON

Reader won’t donate to those who drink from the public trough

EDITOR:

I am grateful that those in the public service of our land have finally gotten the memo to quit the phrase “We’re all in this together.” This notion eventually became a mockery as instances of public servants flaunting the regulations mounted.

Perhaps like other people, I am perplexed at how to cope with the disparity between the power exerted by the public servants. I know of no instance where a public pay raise has been deferred, a department has been shuttered or meaningful changes to staffing occurred like anything resembling the deep hurt financially and mentally felt by many in the private sector.

Nor does plundering the wealth of future generations resemble a

proper response to the blundering and malfeasance which time shall show to be too often what has occurred by elected representatives and the entrenched bureaucracy. We cannot be ‘in this together’ when one side has the power to confiscate property through taxation and fines and also personal freedoms including imprisonment for normal and needed human behavior such as gathering together previously thought sacred via our Canadian constitution, social custom or religious observance.

I have thought long and hard on how possibly to address this imbalance. There are precious few means to do so. However one action, which I urge your readers to consider, is that I will no longer voluntarily donate any money to organizations which received public

funding. Be it a political party, alma mater, hospital; all of those groups drink deep from the public trough. If they cannot find means to reorder their finances, as millions of Canadians have been compelled to do, then I am under no compunction to freely give them any of my rapidly dwindling savings.

I would welcome any other suggestions others might have to bring the public service to heel. As it is, the creeping preponderance of the nanny state continues to leech away the savings and hopes of Canadians while continuing to rip apart our social contract with their blissful ignorance of the despair many face.

Shame on them.

Dale Maris
Croton, Ontario

Online classroom to shrink by two-thirds in September

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

Around 750 students have committed to virtual learning next year in Lambton-Kent.

Those numbers are just a third of students taught through online school this year. Around 400 elementary and 350 secondary students signed up prior to the April 21 deadline.

The Minister of Education, Stephen Leece, mandated all boards to provide online learning again next year.

It was first put into place in April 2020 as the pandemic swept across Ontario.

Director of Education John Howitt says the virtual option is important “especially for students who are immunocompromised or in households with family members who are immunocompromised.”

The school board originally said parents and students wouldn’t be able to change their mind after the deadline due to staffing needs. But the Ministry of Education has asked them to reconsider.

“The ministry has made a request that school boards consider giving parents more time... to decide whether they want to be in remote learning for the entire school year next year,” says

Howitt.

“We’re in the process of investigating whether or not our collective agreements would allow us to entertain that request.”

This comes as any return to school this year grows more unlikely. Howitt says school boards “don’t get any advanced warning at what might happen. We learn at the same time as the public does.”

But there are hints. “There is a significant concern especially around the ICU occupancy across the province and that continues to play into their decision process,” Howitt says of the Ministry of Education.

A potential boost came to the safety of in-person learning last week when Health Canada approved the Pfizer vaccine for children 12 years old and up.

“Having students vaccinated before they enter school in September would be a big step in getting our in-class experience back to normal,” says Medical Officer of Health Dr. David Colby.

“It not only would enhance in-person learning, it would also provide greater opportunity to re-initiate things like extracurriculars and clubs and lower anxiety for all,” says Howitt.

Public health officials are hinting

the vaccine will be available to this youngest age group in June or July.

Vaccines could also help facilitate the return of more international students.

The school district took a blow in that department this year as only around one-third of their usual 120 students were able to come to Canada.

“It not only enhances the education opportunities for those students coming, we strongly believe that opportunity for our students to learn with others from across the globe gives our students a strong understanding of the world as a whole,” says Howitt.

But as for Canadian students going abroad themselves, Howitt says “At this time we are not encouraging international travel for our students. However we have some great programs that we’re looking forward to restarting hopefully by next spring if it’s possible, or next summer.”

The school board recently wrapped up its first round of asymptomatic testing at schools.

The Ministry of Education has requested another round from Lambton-Kent, with Howitt saying “We’re in the process of determining whether or not we’re going to do that or rely on the pharmacies which offer similar opportunities for students and families.”

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Here's How it Works: Level: Advanced
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



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The cost of doing municipal business

Petrolia and Central Lambton taxpayers pay almost \$700,000 for politician salaries and expenses

Heather Wright
The Independent

\$1,679,878.94.

That’s what Lambton taxpayers shelled out in 2020 to their elected representatives.

Every year, municipal councils - including county governments - must release how much elected representatives are paid and reimbursed for expenses. On a case-by-case basis, the reports rarely raise an eyebrow, particularly in smaller municipalities. But this year, *The Independent* analysed all the reports municipalities prepare yearly under the Ontario government’s accountability rules - particularly those in our coverage area of Petrolia and Central Lambton.

There, taxpayers spent a total of \$1,213,082.52. Lambton shores and Sarnia added another \$466,796.42 to the entire county bill.

In Lambton, Sarnia has the largest bill with \$270,998.26 in salaries and expenses for councillors. It also is the largest community with 74,779 people at last count in 2019.

In Central Lambton, St. Clair Township councillors draw the most from taxpayers for salaries and expenses; a total of \$215,256 in 2020.

Mayor Steve Arnold took home over \$53,094 that year. Councillors also have a salary of just over \$23,000. St. Clair is the second largest community in Lambton with 14,775 people.

Lambton Shores - the third largest municipality - spent just under \$200,000 in salaries and expenses.

Plympton-Wyoming put \$151,559 in the pockets of municipal councillors including \$44,066 to Mayor Lonny Napper. Like many councils, Plympton-Wyoming politicians are paid a flat fee and then a stipend for each meeting. Napper spent much more time in meetings in 2020, being involved in the emergency planning for the pandemic.

Notably, other municipal leaders did not file for pay even though they were attending the same meeting.

Petrolia taxpayers shell out more per person than any municipality in Lambton. The annual report shows \$125,126 was paid to Petrolia council members; with a population estimated at 6,056 in 2019, that equates to \$20.98 per person.

Mayor Brad Loosely took home \$30,814 in salary and expenses.

Petrolia is also the only municipality which has a health benefit for councillors. It cost taxpayers \$9,281.96 in 2020.

Brooke-Alvinston residents pay the least per person to support the cost of local government at \$14.80. But the municipality with just 2,391 people spent only \$35,393.01 in 2020 on politician’s salaries, including \$10,661.05 for Mayor Dave Ferguson.

Dawn-Euphemia’s council bottom line is similar with \$37,402.78 in total and the mayor, Al Broad, claiming \$12,492.73 in total.

In Enniskillen, Kevin Marriott claimed \$13,219.73 in salary and expenses for his municipal duties. That was about 26 per cent of the \$49,905.73 budget for the five-person council.

Warwick Mayor Jackie Rombouts claimed \$22,891.67 in 2020 after attending 96 meetings on behalf of council; 86 of which were paid.

In all, Warwick residents paid \$74,697.33 for their municipal councillors.

By far, the lowest spending council is the Village of Oil Springs. The five member council was paid \$9,156 with Mayor Ian Veen bringing home \$2,340 over the course of 2020.

That’s about 4 per cent of what St. Clair’s mayor brings home and 17 per cent of what Oil Springs’ nearest neighbouring mayor in Enniskillen claimed.

The Central Lambton municipal governments combined spend just under \$700,000 in salary, meeting pay and expenses to the people we elect.

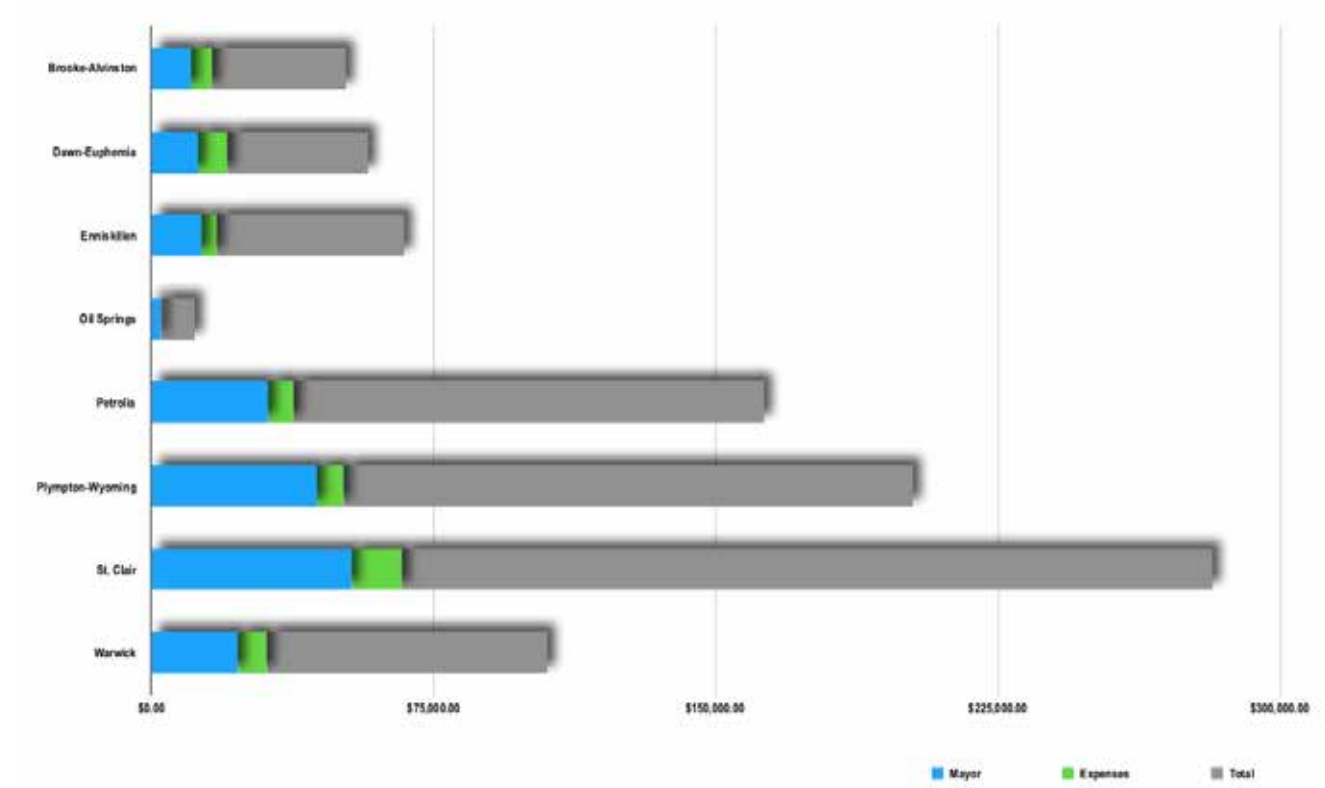
But that doesn’t include the cost of running Lambton County government.

Another \$492,863.73 is paid out to municipal politicians which form the 18 person council.

In 2020, then Warden Bill Weber claimed \$83,558.65 including almost \$74,000 in salary.

Deputy Warden Kevin Marriot from Enniskillen claimed

2020 Council Renumeration			
	Mayor	Expenses	Total
Brooke-Alvinston	10,661	5,518	35,393
Dawn-Euphemia	12,493	7,713	37,403
Enniskillen	13,220	4,067	49,906
Oil Springs	2,340	0	9,156
Petrolia	30,814	6,805	125,126
Plympton-Wyoming	44,066	6,890	151,559
St. Clair	53,094	13,551	215,256
Warwick	22,892	7,640	74,697



Cost per capita of Council Salary and Expenses			
	Cost per person	Population	Total Cost
Brooke-Alvinston	15	2,391	35,393
Dawn-Euphemia	18	7,713	37,403
Enniskillen	18	2,794	49,906
Oil Springs	14	635	9,156
Petrolia	21	6,010	125,126
Plympton-Wyoming	18	8,393	151,559
St. Clair	15	14,755	215,256
Warwick	19	3,924	74,697

\$42,853.25 for his duties. Marriott holds the warden’s position now.

That means each of the estimated 128,891 people in Lambton contributed \$3.82 to the cost of Lambton County politician salaries.

And it should be noted; 2020 was an

unusual year in politics.

Because of the pandemic, politicians often attended meetings from home, saving time in their commute to council chambers in some cases.

There were also more meetings as municipalities had to deal with the

fallout of provincial orders to curb the spread of the virus.

And municipal conferences and training, which often led to big expense accounts, went online, whittling down the costs to taxpayers considerably.

Meet the Merchants of Petrolia

Gramma’s Candy Store: making smiles

Gramma’s Candy Store was built on a dream and a lot of family love. I am Terri Denboer the owner.

I opened my diner/candy store with full intentions of making families smile. Truth be told, customers make me smile every single day.

I am so grateful to be able to help people go down memory lane with candy from our childhoods.

Or maybe the specialty candy is the adventure you are seeking. We have something for everyone.

From fresh popcorn, roller grill hotdogs, old fashioned milkshakes and sundaes to vegan candy, lactose free and sugar free options.

While here you can design the right shirt or sweater just for you! 3G +1 is a custom apparel clothing company inside our doors.

We have it all. Come in and experience the fun atmosphere and treats.



Open Tuesday to Saturday from 11am to 8pm. These hours will extend in the summer.

Floral finds at Always in Bloom

Always In Bloom has been serving Petrolia and area for over 17 years.

Owner, Belinda De Kort has been in the floral industry for over 30 years.

Whether you are looking for a bouquet of fresh flowers or a silk floral arrangement for your home she can create the perfect arrangement for you.

Home décor, greeting cards and unique gifts also available.

4183 Petrolia Line

Petrolia

519-882-

9034

Mon-Fri

10am-4pm

Saturday

10am-3pm



Black Gold Brewery: Thirsty yet?

Black Gold Brewery offers small batch craft beer and is located in the historic downtown of Petrolia, Ontario.

Our oil town history has inspired both our band and our facility to provide a great place for locals to gather and tourists to discover.

Black Gold Brewery has a retail store, taproom, patio, private room and production facility all on site. Stop by and try some of their fan favourites; Liquid Gold Cream Ale, Where Robert Met Fletcher pseudo Lager or Pantless in Petrolia, Pineapple Jalapeno Imperial IPA.



Thirsty yet?

Follow Black Gold Brewery on Facebook and Instagram. for beer releases, promotions, events and updates about the brewery.

You can purchase beer online from their website at shop.blackgold.beer Curbside pick up and free local delivery is available.

Retail hours: Monday – Sunday 12pm – 7pm

Call for Taproom Hours (226)738-0665 or search www.blackgold.beer



Coffee Lodge: A Petrolia favourite

Inspired but the warmth and comfort of a Canadian lodge, Coffee Lodge Petrolia has been a local favorite for over 10 years.

Coffee Lodge is a full service Café & Espresso bar with gourmet roasted beans, and extensive menu of specialty coffees and a fresh menu of soups, salads, wraps, sandwiches and baked goods.

Erin and Wanda start bright and early every morning baking



muffins, cookies, scones and grinding fresh beans.

The menu is simple with fresh, chef-inspired selections for breakfast, lunch or a midday snack.

The great patio is a perfect spot for lunch or a break fro the everyday.

Drop in or order online at www.coffeelodge.ca



SUPPORT

Our Friends & Neighbours

SHOP

Petrolia

town.petrolia.on.ca

Meet the Merchants of Petrolia



Family Discount Depot Tuesday's Store

Family Discount Depot also known as “The Tuesday Store” is a family-owned business that has been serving the Petrolia area for more than 20 years. Offering items such as kitchen essentials, kid’s toys, light fixtures, furniture, clothing for the whole family and many more items at discounted prices.

Weekly shipments arrive every Monday which makes for an exciting week of shopping. Each shipment is unique, you never know what you are going to find! For updated hours, current stock and general inquiries please visit their Facebook page or call 519-882-4885.

Regular operating hours:
Tuesday-Friday 10am-5pm • Saturday 10am-4pm
(hours are subject to change)

Fashion Fusion: at home service

We are a Mother/Daughter team here to bring you easy to wear, stylish and affordable clothes from the comfort of your home! Perfect pieces for any body type/size. Quality Women’s clothing for all seasons. Affordable and fashionable. Check out our Petrolia Wear! From sizes XSmall to XXlarge.

Located at 377 Garfield Ave., Petrolia, Fashion Fusion with Mary Kate offers porch pickup and drop off. Shop by personal appointment at our in-home Boutique or shop online at



www.FashionFusionMK.shop. Mary and Kate have over 11 years experience in the fashion industry. Before moving to Petrolia they owned a fashion retail store in St. Mary’s.

You can find us on Facebook and Instagram.

Follow or message us for more information and updates.

Hours are:
24 hours on-line shopping
7 days a week by appointment
519-274-4172



Kingswell Glen: The place to golf

Located in 4300 Garden Crescent, Kingswell Glen Golf Club Petrolia is one of the oldest golf courses in Canada – and if your ask us, it’s also one of the best! An 18 hole golf course originally built in 1895, this course grew from 6 to 18 holes.

Today, it boasts beautiful greens, challenging topography, and state of the art golf simulators to use in the off-season. With indoor facilities, golf lessons and challenging greens to play, this truly is one of Lambton County’s best-kept secrets.

Stay connected to what’s happening by subscribing to our newsletter and or follow us on social media. Kingswell Glen is the place to golf.



(519) 882-0860
info@kingswellpetrolia.com

Master Craftsman Johnny Shoemaker

How do small businesses survive and even thrive during a global pandemic?

John Serratore, master craftsman, owner and operator of Johnny Shoemaker with 40+ years of experience, will tell you that it comes down to two things – providing consistent quality service and the loyalty of satisfied customers.

Long before the Internet, John knew that the best advertising one could invest in was a happy customer’s word-of-mouth, and it has worked for 40 years.

Decades later, customers still send their repairs and requests from across North America to the quaint town of Petrolia where John’s shop is currently located. After all, a skilled cobbler is not easy to find these days! Aside from being a shoe repair



shop and shoe store, John sells retail shoe care products as well as leather belts custom made. Sandals and hard to find size shoes ladies size 3 through mens size 17 extra wide. I also make custom orthotics and resole Birkenstock’s.

You can find Johnny Shoemaker at **399 Eureka Street Petrolia, Open Saturday 8am – 4pm**
226-372-0205

You Can Still Win...

Next Draw May 31st

Drop off your receipt (original or copy) at the Petrolia Town Hall mail box or Gramma's Candy Store or email twagner@petrolia.ca

Print your name and phone number legibly on each receipt

250

PETROLIA BUCKS

We had an

OVERWHELMING

RESPONSE

for our

RECEIPT

PROMOTION

Buy Local Win

PETROLIA BUCKS

for our

RECEIPT

PROMOTION

Congratulations to April Winner



Tammy LeBlanc

Receipt from The Cottage

Participation Rules:

- Make sure business name and date are on receipts, winning receipt will be verified at that business.
- Must be 18 or older to participate.
- May only win one of the 2 drawings.
- Receipts must be from businesses in Petrolia and total more than \$20 (before taxes).
- Make sure your name & phone number are both written on receipt.

Shop Local and Win!

This Promotion is Sponsored By: The Petrolia Business Association

Meet the Merchants of Petrolia

Leisure Lane: Clothes for work and play

Leisure Lane is a long established women’s clothing store located in Petrolia’s downtown that sells classic women’s clothing suitable for work or weekend wear. Moderately priced fashionable clothing by such brands as FDJ, Tribal, Columbia Sportswear, Habitat, Jockey and Bali. Leisure Lane carries a large collection of denim jeans from multiple suppliers along with shorts and capris. We also carry a wonderful selection of tops and blouses for all occasions. Leisure Lane also carries a full line of purses including LUG and a large selection of accessories. We make sure that all of your fashion purchases fit as they should to make you look great by having experienced tailors on staff.



**Current Hours –
By Appointment
Tuesday-Friday
10am-4pm
Saturday 10am-3pm
4229 Petrolia
Line, Petrolia
Call:
519-882-2311 or
519-882-1146**



Mister B’s: Outfitting Petrolia’s men

Mister B’s has been outfitting the guys in your family for 35 years. With this experience we have evolved with the changes to fashion, but have never changed the personal one-on-one experience tailored for your perfect fit. You can find suits, jeans and a diverse range of clothing and accessories meant to fill every corner of your wardrobe. We have made in Canada Marco pants, Ballin, Lois, Leo, Chevalier, Mandago, Columbia, Saxx, Stanfields, McGregor to name a few lines. Stop in and say “Hi” to Ben. We can dress your man for any occasion, it is always a pleasure to serve you. See us on Facebook at



MisterB’s.
519-882-311
226-886-2889 cell
Private appointments available.

Petrolia Home Hardware: all you need

In the heart of downtown, Petrolia Home Hardware offers everything you need to make all your home and garden dreams come true. Independently owned by Jason and Lana Mullins for the past 91/2 years, we strive to provide excellent customer service to the loyal patrons of Petrolia. We love Petrolia! Petrolia Home Hardware offers a unique gift section, Canadian made Beauti-tone paint and Wood Shield stains, plenty of on-site parking, and helpful, friendly advice for all of your home repair and improvement questions. You’ll be surprised what you can find in our store! Call ahead to place your order (519) 882-0920 and pick up



Owners Jason and Lana Mullins your order at 4120 Petrolia Line
Current Hours: Monday-Saturday 9am-4pm Sunday Closed
Like us on Facebook & Instagram @ petroliahomeware
We close all holidays to spend time with our families.

Sitara: Fresh authentic Indian Cuisine

Sitara Petrolia is located at 4189 Petrolia Line behind The Old Post office. Sitara is an extension of Sitara Sarnia to serve our beloved community of Petrolia and the surrounding areas with fresh and authentic Indian cuisine. Sitara food is not spicy but very flavorful. Ordering for the first time? We will recommend appetizers and dishes based on your preferences and the spice level. At Sitara, everything is made fresh. We prepare family, office and group meals as well. Dine in, takeout, delivery, and catering are available. Sitara is rated the number one restaurant in Lambton County since it opened nine years ago and is rated among the top 10 percent of restaurants worldwide



on Trip advisor in year 2020. With 4.9 rating on Facebook, 4.8 rating on Google, please allow Sitara to fulfill your desire for great food that is fresh and relatively healthy.
Phone: 226-738-0738. Can order and pay online at: www. sitarasarnia.com.
Hours: Wednesday to Sunday 11am to 9pm. Monday and Tuesday, we will deliver the food to Petrolia from our location in Sarnia.

PETROLIA RESIDENT

COMPOST

Transfer Site!

NEW LOCATION

Maude Street Transfer Site • 546 Maude Street

2021 RESIDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A PASS TO ACCESS THE SITE

8AM - UNTIL - NOON

Passes are available for no charge at Town Hall, and at the Petrolia Farmers' Market during the season.

May 22 • 29

June 5 • 12 • 26

July 17

Aug 7

Sept 11 • 18 • 25

Oct 2 • 9 • 16

PETROLIA COMPOST DEPOT REQUIREMENTS

Grass Clippings

Dead Plants

Sticks/Branches under 4"

Leaves

Mulch & Fertilizer Bags

Rock or Brick

Plastic Pots

Dirt/Sod

Plastic barriers or fencing

Depot staff reserve the right to refuse any materials that do not conform to the requirements.

Paper bags are required to dispose of compost materials

TIPS

1. Yard waste and brush will be separated into two bins - please do not bag it together.

2. Please use paper bags or reusable bins.

3. Brush must be of reasonable size & length.

4. Residents will be asked to take unacceptable items home.

Town of PETROLIA

For more information: 519-882-2350

www.town.petrolia.on.ca

Meet the Merchants of Petrolia

Sitek & Company: Style and Spirit

Sitek & Company is a family owned business devoted to local patrons and tourist visiting the Victoria Playhouse Petrolia. It is where spirit and style meet. We specialize in sharing our passion for exciting fashions with the seasons must-haves. You can't help but catch our contagious energy as we strive to make your shopping experience fun and most importantly, all about you!

Whether you are looking for that special occasion outfit or PJs we have you covered.

You will find Canadian Made brands like Joseph Ribkoff, Michael Tyler, Sophia, Softworks, and Crystal. And we carry sizes S-3XL.

You can find us on Facebook at Sitek & Company



Or you can reach us at **519-882-0706** or **519-466-2674** (cell)
Private Appointments available.



Staffy's: Awesome sandwiches



If you're looking for a delicious and filling lunch, stop by 4159 Petrolia Line and come into Staffy's for one of our awesome sandwiches!

We are family owned and operated; serving a variety of deli style sub sandwiches, grilled paninis and even a pickle sandwich, all with your choice of fresh toppings, cheese and sauces (you gotta try garlic

mayo!).

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates on specials and new products.

Current hours:
Mon-Fri 11am-6pm
Saturday 11am-4pm
4159 Petrolia Line
519-381-1712



Tais Art Studio: Art and beauty combined

Welcome to Tais Art Studio
Located at 4165 Petrolia Line this cute shop for gifts and homemade items also represents more than 25 local vendors and makers.

In here you can find beauty care products, candles, jewelry, handmade pet supplies and much, more.

And stay tuned for our special partnership with The ArtZ Den where you will be able to find refinished furniture and a lot of amazing home décor!



The Cottage: quality coffee and treats

Beautiful location, quality coffee and amazing staff.

The Cottage Petrolia Coffee Shop offers a vast array of scrumptious treats including sandwiches, salads, daily soups and baked goods.

The Cottage is located across from Victoria Park and Victoria Playhouse Petrolia in downtown Petrolia.

Stop in to enjoy amazing lattes, cappuccinos and java!



Hours:
Mon-Sat 9-3pm
226-738-0881



Virtual

Pizza  fest

June 4 & 5, 2021

PARTICIPATE FROM HOME VIRTUALLY

* EVENT IS DURING REGULAR PIZZERIA BUSINESS HOURS *

VPP Entertainment Online!

WATCH FOR SPECIALS TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON!

Don't miss the FUN!
Enjoy a family PIZZA PARTY!



GOING UP



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The new pavilion at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre is starting to take shape. The Alvinston Optimists lobbied for a number of years for the project and is raising money for the pavilion and new accessible washrooms behind the arena and near the ball diamonds. Tuesday, workers from Agri-Urban were working on the shelter’s roof and preparing the ground for cement.

London woman claims another driver in single car crash

Alex Kurial
The Independent

A London woman’s attempt to explain how her car ended up in the ditch off the 402 wasn’t cutting it with police.

The accident took place in the early morning hours of Sept. 19 last year when Lambton OPP were called to a highway crash in Plympton-Wyoming. Officers arrived to find a long stretch of tire marks leaving the highway and continuing through the shoulder off the road.

In the ditch, where the marks ended, lay a Chevy Cobalt on its side. Inside was Cassandra Powers, who despite the crash was unharmed.

When questioned, Powers, 20, said there had actually been a man driving the car.

She even gave a description of the

supposed person. But her story, which police described as “incoherent”, unravelled quickly. This was largely because she was the only person in the car or in the area.

Also not helping her case were slow and sedated speech, bloodshot eyes and a strong smell of alcohol.

Unable to find a buyer for her story, Powers finally admitted she’d indeed been driving and was the car’s lone occupant.

Officers arrested Powers and took her to the Petrolia OPP station where she blew a .140 reading on the blood alcohol test.

In Sarnia Court May 10, the Crown asked for an elevated fine of \$1,900. Crown Attorney Ryan Iaquinata referenced her high alcohol readings, the crash on a major highway and her status as a G2 driver.

The novice licence level comes with

a no alcohol condition while driving. Defence Lawyer Ryan Venables suggested a penalty of \$1,700 and no probation.

He says his client has refocused since then and taken steps to address personal issues.

“Some things came up and she became emotional and she made this poor decision obviously,” says Venables.


“She’s reevaluated the role of many things in her life.” Justice Anne McFadyen agreed with the \$1,900 fine proposed by the Crown but agreed with the Defence that probation wasn’t necessary because of the steps Powers has taken on her own. Powers also received a one year driving ban.

THE INDEPENDENT


**TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK FIRE/RESCUE
WATFORD STATION**

The Township of Warwick is currently recruiting Volunteer Firefighters for the Township of Warwick Fire/Rescue Watford Station.

Any interested individuals are asked to go to send resumes to:



**Twp. of Warwick Fire/Rescue
Watford Station**
P.O. Box 640 Watford, ON
N0M 2S0



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For Those Who Prefer To Live At Home
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Funded in part by the
Sarnia/Lambton United Way

Notice of Annual General Meeting
Bylaw changes will be presented.

May 17, 2021 at 4:30pm

Meeting Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting
Call 519-845-1353 ext. 215 or 1-800-265-0203 for more information or to register

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88% ARE READING ON ANY PLATFORM



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NEWSMEDIACANADA.CA **#NewspapersMatter**

*Totum Research; Canadians 18+, weekly readership, March 2019

TAKE 20 Take 20 minutes to make learning together part of your everyday.

EAT YOUR WORDS

Play with your food and write words with alphabet cereal and soup.

Activity #15

We like cookie letters too!

FAMILY

See all **Take 20** learning activities at **www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca**

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Our wax removal clinic is fully equipped to handle all of your wax removal needs in a safe and effective way.



SUCTION (VACUUM)



IRRIGATION (WATER)



CURETTAGE (TOOLS)



VIDEO OF EAR

BOOK YOUR WAX REMOVAL APPOINTMENT TODAY!



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No referral required.

Sarnia
714 London Rd
519.344.8887

Petrolia
4130 Glenview Rd
www.bluewaterhearing.ca

Corunna
348 Lyndoch St

WE OFFER IN-CLINIC APPOINTMENT FOR WAX REMOVALS



Sports

LCCVI student signs with Lambton Lions

The Independent

The Lambton Lions women's soccer program didn't have to look far from home to sign their first recruit of the off-season. LCCVI's Sarah Sanders is an alumnus of the Sarnia Girls Soccer Club.

It's hoped the Wyoming native can add some offensive prowess to the

Lambton arsenal. Sanders and her teammates went to the Ontario Cup Final in 2017.

“The Lions are coming off a 2019 season that saw the program struggle to find the back of the net,” said a release by the club.

“With the addition of Sanders to the mix going forward, Coach (Kevin) Simmonds is excited about the

potential that the offensive group will possess heading into the 2021 season.” Sanders will study nursing at Lambton.



Sports Park project in Forest gets boost from Jays

The Independent

Minor baseball in Forest is one of 14 organizations to receive a grant through the Jays Care Foundation's Field of Dreams program.

The grant for \$54,800 will be used to build two covered accessible dugouts and fencing at the Rick Goodhand Memorial Baseball Diamond.

"It was very exciting to see our organization included among the list of recipients announced on Sportsnet," said Kevin Goodhand, President of the Forest Minor Baseball Association.

"This has been a challenging year for so many of us, especially the youth in our community, and this announcement gives our community and our players something to look forward to."

Lambton Shores Mayor Bill Weber, who hopes for a return to youth sports soon, called the news "extremely exciting."

“We are pleased to help organizations across the country build exciting, new spaces for children and youth to reconnect once it is safe to do so,” said Robert Witchel, Executive Director, Jays Care Foundation.

Funding from the Field of Dreams program is to design, refurbish and build safe spaces for children and youth to play baseball.



Squires player will be coaching for Jr Sting

The Independent

A long-time player with the Petrolia Squires has been chosen to return as the U14 coach with the Lambton Jr. Sting "AAA" program for the 2021-22 season.

Jason Polera amassed nearly 500 regular season and playoff points with the Squires over nine seasons from 2002-2011. He averaged nearly two points per game.

Polera joined the Squires after a junior career with Erie, Windsor and Kingston and a brief stint in semi-pro hockey.

The full list of Jr. Sting coaches for the coming season is below:

2010/U12 – Dan Davidson
2009/U13 – Chris Edwards
2008/U14 – Jason Polera
2007/U15 – Brad Riley
2006/U16 – Tom Babcock



Ryan McCullough / HHOF-IHP Image

Sarnia Sting Goalie Ben Gaudreau named top goalie in gold medal performance.

Sting's Gaudreau wins gold at IIHF U-18

The Independent

Sarnia Sting goalie Ben Gaudreau made 31 saves to backstop Team Canada to a 5-3 win over Russia in the championship game at the IIHF World Under-18 Hockey Tournament in Texas last week.

It was Canada's first gold at the event since 2013.

Gaudreau finished the tournament with a perfect 5-0 record, a 2.20 goals-against average and a .919 save percentage.

He was chosen Top Goaltender at the

tournament, but curiously wasn't named to the media all-star team.

In post-game comments, Gaudreau said the win was exciting, awesome and unreal.

"The last minute of the game felt longer than the rest of the game," said Gaudreau.

"It took a little while, but when Shaner (Shane Wright) kind of put the icing on the cake (with an empty net goal) it really set in."

Meantime, Canadian coach Dave Barr was succinct in his praise of the Sting goalie.

"He ended up playing fantastic for us."

MP Marilyn Gladu

Sarnia-Lambton

We Are Here To Serve You


1000 Finch Drive,
Sarnia, Ontario
N7S 6G5

519-383-6600

marilyn.gladu@parl.gc.ca

www.mpmarilyngladu.ca






Township of Warwick

Municipality of Brooke Alvinston

2021

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS



NOTICE TO DESTROY WEEDS AND TALL GRASS IS HEREBY GIVEN to all persons in possession of land, in accordance with the Weed Control Act, R.S.O. 1990 Chapter W.5 and in accordance with Municipal By-laws that unless noxious weeds and excessive growth of grass and other vegetation growing on their land within the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston and the Township of Warwick are destroyed by the 25th of May, 2021, and throughout the season, the Municipality may enter the said lands and have the weeds and/or grasses destroyed, charging the costs against the said lands.

The co-operation of all citizens is earnestly solicited.

<p>Janet Denkers Municipality of Brooke Alvinston Clerk Administrator 3236 River Street Alvinston, ON N0N 1A0 519-898-2173 www.brookealvinston.com</p>	<p>County Weed Inspector County of Lambton 789 Broadway Street Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0 519-845-5420 1-866-324-6912</p>	<p>Amanda Gubbels Township of Warwick Clerk Administrator 6332 Nauvoo Road Watford, ON N0M 2S0 519-876-3926 1-866-849-39226 www.warwicktownship.ca</p>
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Vegetable & Mushroom Soups only

Canned Pasta

Family Snacks

Cleaning Supplies

PLEASE NOTE: Kleenex and Toilet Paper are not needed at this time.
Your Generosity & Support Are Greatly Appreciated.

Gift Cards

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Donations can be left at: Heidi's YIG - Petrolia; Wyoming Foodland and Corunna NoFrills or dropped off to
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Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon

Classifieds



Word Classifieds: \$10 plus tax for up to 40 words
Stop in at the office 9a-5p Mon-Fri
4156 Petrolia Line – Call 226-738-0728
or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Solution

Answers to this week's
Sudoku
Brought to you by:
519.882.1290
4146 Petrolia Line
Petrolia

Auto/Home/Business Insurance

8	1	3	7	5	6	9	4	2
4	2	7	1	9	8	3	5	6
6	9	5	2	4	3	1	8	7
2	7	4	6	8	1	5	9	3
5	6	8	4	3	9	2	7	1
1	3	9	5	7	2	8	6	4
3	4	2	8	6	5	7	1	9
7	8	1	9	2	4	6	3	5
9	5	6	3	1	7	4	2	8

Real Estate

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Leo Shanahan Sales Representative
Direct: 519-878-5981 • leo@shanahanrealty.com • Fax-519.849.6683

NOTICE

CANCELATION - The Bluewater Anglers have canceled their Annual Kids Training Day on Saturday May 19 at the Hatchery in Point Edward due to Covid 19 restrictions.

NOTICE

LFA POST SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP - The Lambton Federation of Agriculture will be offering ten scholarships this year for the 2022 school year, for both college and university students. For the regular scholarships: Applicants need to be from a family actively farming in Lambton County: While you do not need to be an LFA/OFA member, it is required that you (or parents or grandparents or guardian) have a valid FBR number registered in Lambton County. The **deadline to apply for the scholarships is July 15th 2021**. For a list of the scholarships and their individual criteria, please see the LFA Website scholarships page at <https://lambtonfederation.ca/scholarships/>

Notice

ADVERTISING POLICY - The publisher of this newspaper, *The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton*, reserves the right to clarify or refuse any advertisement based on its sole discretion. The publisher reserves the right to reject, discontinue or omit any advertisement without notice or penalty to either party. Liability for errors or non-insertion is limited to the amount paid for the cost of space occupied by the error. Claims of errors must be made prior to the next publication date.

Notice

In order to improve response times and provide better customer service, Lambton Public Health unveiled a new dedicated Vaccine Call Centre which will operate from **Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Individuals with COVID-19 vaccine inquiries are asked to call this new phone number to speak with an agent directly. **The new Vaccine Call Centre can be reached at 226-254-8222.**

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY - Adult bicycles Women & Men. All sizes. Good to fair condition. All types of bikes wanted. Please call 519-882-2548 and ask for Dave.

Notice

CANCELLED - The 2021 ARLANX-EO Retiree Dinner is cancelled. We will try again in 2022 (COVID permitting).

For Sale

PLANT SALE - Perennial plants, Rose of Sharon Bushes. Self Serve. We will recycle plant pots. **458 Ignatfna St., Petrolia.**

Coming Events

STEAM - Get creative at home with Lambton County Library. Pick up a DIY kit at one of our participating curbside pickup locations to make **Jumping Frogs**. Register by **Sunday, May 23, 2021** to reserve your kit here: <https://lclibrary.libnet.info/event/4946264>

Wanted to Buy

WANTED - Cash for quality vintage items from 1950 - 80's including furniture/teak cabinets/tables/chairs/lamps. Plus sports cards, toys, glassware, stained glass, art/nature/architecture... books, magazines, coins. Please call **Lance 519-882-4729**.

Notice

The County of lambton is working together on the community vaccination efforts. **Lambton County Libraries are offering free, contact less curb side pickup of vaccine screening & consent forms**, no library card required. Getting us all vaccinated and safe is a community effort. But we can do it.

Notice

Petrolia Resident Compost Transfer Site - This years site has moved to 546 Maude Street. 2021 Residents are required to have a pas to access the site. Passes are available for no charge at Town Hall now, and at the Petrolia Farmers' market during the 2021 Season. May 22, 29, June 5, 12, 26, July 17, August 7, September 11, 18, 25, Oct 2, 9 & 16, 2021 from 8am until 12noon. Petrolia compost depot will accept: grass clippings, dead plants, sticks/branches under 4", and leaves. The depot will NOT accept: mulch & fertilizer bags, rocks/bricks, plastic pots, dirt/sod, plastic barriers/fencing. Tips to make it a smooth drop off: Yard waste and brush will be separated into two bins - please do not bag it together. Please use paper bags or reusable bins. Brush must be of reasonable size and length. Residents will be asked to take unacceptable items home.

Coming Events

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH PETROLIA - Online Silent Auction. June 12th at 10am until June 18th at 8pm. All proceeds to St. Paul's & Lambton Centre. Online auction on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/867305777448106> . If you would like more information or wish to donate an item for the auction, please contact: Carl Watt email StPaulsFundraising@hotmail.com call/text 519-312-6505. Thank your for your support!!

For Sale

FOR SALE - Twin Mattress for sale. Pocket Coil. Clean Hardly Used. Firm. Located in Petrolia. Considering offers. 226-964-1228

Notice

ONTARIO PARKS DAY PASSES - Lambton County Library has added Ontario Parks day-use passes to its collection. With a library card you can now borrow a seasonal day-use permit for up to seven days and gain entry into any provincial park in Ontario.

Notice

Household Hazardous Waste Collection: The County of Lambton, in conjunction with Clean Harbors Canada Inc., hosts several HHW collections events each year. The events give Lambton County residents an opportunity to properly dispose of potentially dangerous waste from their homes and protect our environment at the same time. If hazardous products are thrown in with the regular garbage, it can injure sanitation workers and cause long-term environmental problems. HHW Days take place at the Clean Harbors Canada Inc. site, 4090 Telfer Road in St. Clair Township the last Saturdays of April, May, June, September, and October.

Wanted to Buy

WANTED TO BUY - **ANYTHING OLD** including signs, bottles, canning jars, jewelry, tins, paper items, pottery, old lighters, old razors, rustic pieces, etc. Single items to entire estates. **CALL CHAD 519-639-9102.**

NOTICE

CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 12 - Join the Canadian Cancer Society on Saturday, June 12 to Relay for Life from the comfort of your own home! Sarnia-Lambton residents of all ages are welcome to attend our virtual event, which will be hosted on Facebook and Youtube and broadcasted on YESTV. This Year's virtual Relay will include all the signature components of our in-person events, including an opening ceremony with inspirational stories, performances from incredible entertainers, a virtual luminary celebration and more to help celebrate survivors and support those living with cancer. Even though this year we are physically apart, we still Relay together. Join us - register today at relayforlife.ca/sarnia. Stay up to date with the latest news at facebook.com/SarniaRelayForLife.


Notice

REMINDER - The deadline for applications to the SCRCAs 2021 Conservation Scholarships is fast approaching (May 31, 2021). Please visit our website for more information on eligibility and how to apply: <https://www.scrca.on.ca/foundation/scholarships/>

Celebration



Card of Thanks


I want to "Thank" Dr. Lam & Staff (Shelley & Britney) for their assistance in helping me get my COVID Vaccination so quick.
March 22 & April 22
I received my vaccinations due to my low immune system due to the medication "Cyclosporine". I have to take as I had a heart transplant August 13, 1995. It has been 25 years and still beating strong.
*Thank You
Chester Meredith*

Card of Thanks


I want to say
Thank You to my family and friends for the beautiful flowers, cards, gifts and phone calls I received on my birthday. It brightened my day. Thanks so much.
Doris Fraser


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Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon



Classifieds

Word Classifieds: \$10 plus tax for up to 40 words
Stop in at the office 9a-5p Mon-Fri
4156 Petrolia Line – Call 226-738-0728
or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Death Notices

May 1 - May 7, 2021

SATURDAY, MAY 1

SWIFT, Mary Anne
Age 68, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

BRADY, Carol "Lynne"
Age 71, of Sarnia
McCormack Funeral Home

DRURY, Gloria
Age 80, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

ROBINSON, Terry
Age 87, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

DUMYN, Maria
Age 94, of Toronto
Denning's of Forest

SUNDAY, MAY 2

SHEFFIELD, Barbara
Age 71, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

SMITH, Ross
Age 89, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

WILLEMS, William
Age 94, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

MONDAY, MAY 3

GEORGE, Crystal
Age 53, of Forest
Denning's of Forest

SCHOPT, Earl
Age 64, of Sarnia
McCormack Funeral Home

LOUNSBURY, Richard
Age 72, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

KLEUSKENS, Inga
Of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

TUESDAY, MAY 4

KONDRA, Shirley
Age 84, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

MILLER, Doris
Age 84, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

GEAUREAU, Mary June
Age 92, of Windsor
McCormack Funeral Home

THURSDAY, MAY 6

TARRANT, Anthony "Tony"
Age 64, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

MacKENZIE, Donald
Age 76, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

WEST, Hannelore
Age 86, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

FRIDAY, MAY 7

SIMMONS, Michael
Age 51, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

CHARGE, Randy
Age 64, of Wyoming
Smith Funeral Home

STEPHENSON, Jessie
Age 82, of Petrolia
Smith Funeral Home

SITTER, Donald "Pat"
Age 84, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

STREET, Clara
Age 93, of Forest
Denning's of Forest

This information is provided as a community service.
For detailed information, please refer to the funeral
home website listing.

Church DIRECTORY

Christ Anglican Church
414 Oil Street, Petrolia

We are closed due to Covid-19 at this time.

Rev. Michelle Collins-Wongkee
Church Office 519-882-1430
christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
416 Queen Street, Petrolia
(Behind the Post Office)

In this time of Social distancing we invite you to join a virtual congregation and watch the Sunday morning worship at St. Andrew's. 10am Service - Live

www.standrews-petrolia.ca

St. Paul's United Church
4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street

In-person services have been suspended. Services can be viewed on our facebook page, youtube page, or website.

View us on YouTube at
St Paul's United Church Petrolia AV
10:30am Service

Rev. Carey Wagner
Church Office: 519-882-1390
www.stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net

First Baptist Church
418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia

WORSHIP SERVICES
Via ZOOM
Sunday Mornings 10:30am

Pastor: Alex Craig
Church Office 519-882-2480
email: fbcpetrolia@gmail.com
www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca

Find us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia

Wyoming United Church
730 Second Street, Wyoming

In-person services suspended at this time. Please contact our office at wyoing_united@outlook.com to be sent the Zoom link to join us for our 10am live service.

Rev. Steven Longmoore
Church Office 519-845-3963
Find us on Facebook

Saying:

"I don't need newspapers; I get my news from the Internet."

is the same as saying

"I know, right? And I don't need farmers; 'cause I get my food at the supermarket."

#newspaperscanada #newsmatters

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COVID-19 SOCIAL DISTANCING

MAINTAIN A DISTANCE OF AT LEAST 6 FEET (2 METERS) FROM OTHERS & remember to WEAR YOUR MASK!



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More hope for visits at local LTCs

Province opening up homes slightly once staff and residents are fully vaccinated

Heather Wright
The Independent

The province says some health care workers, including those in long term care, will get their second shot of their COVID-19 vaccine earlier than first expected. And that could mean more seniors in care will have a little more freedom sooner.

The makers of the vaccine had said people should receive the second dose of the vaccine after 21 days. But after Health Canada gave the okay, provinces began delaying the second dose to up to four months. Vaccine was in short supply and health officials wanted to cover as many people as quickly as possible.

In Lambton, only residents of long term care had been given a second dose in the recommended time frame. Families worried that would have an impact on the freedom of residents in the home. The province had loosened some of the tight regulations in long term care, but only when both the residents and the staff had been fully vaccinated.

In Lambton, where most long term care workers did not start getting their first vaccine until mid February, that meant most homes would not be able to open up to visitors until July.

Deb Krukowski’s dad lives at Vision Nursing Home in Sarnia. She says only 62 per cent of the staff is vaccinated. By the time 70 per cent of workers have had their first shot and then wait the four month interval for the second, it will be well into July.

“The new directive has come down and it’s great for people in the GTA, but here in Sarnia Lambton – where we were last to receive the vaccines – we’re also going to be the last ones to get the double jab.”

That would have meant only Krukowski and her sister can have face-to-face visits with her dad who moved to Vision just after the first wave and lost his wife in November. It has been difficult for the family,

she says, to comfort him and keep his spirits up.

“My kids haven’t seen my dad since before my mom passed away, other than doing Skyping and video calling, which is really hard with a person that is 95 years old and is mostly blind and a lot deaf; it really is a challenge.”

Thursday, at a Lambton Public Health media briefing, Dr. Sudit Ranade said he wasn’t holding out much hope for families saying there are no plans to shorten the wait time for the second dose for staff in long term care.

“The current policy direction is that second doses are only protected for a small subset of the population and for everyone else, the expectation is that we’re going to give first doses to as many people as we possibly can, and then circle back and get second doses by about the four month mark.”

Ranade says if the public health unit would move up the long term care workers, others would soon follow.

“I can tell you there are a number of groups right now that are actively seeking their second doses and the key message from the province has really been first doses are more important right now. And that’s what we’re going to do.

“I think that any ministry or organization that sets up guidelines based on the need to have two doses, is basically forecasting what will happen eventually, rather than saying that this can happen right now.”

But by Monday, the province changed its mind and announced a number of health care workers and at risk patients are now eligible for their second dose earlier, including:

- Transplant recipients,
- Dialysis patients,
- High-risk health care workers including those in long term care,
- paramedics,
- people working in home care serving seniors,
- hospital acute care workers and
- health care workers in the COVID-19 response directly dealing with patients.

Health care workers should be able to book an appointment by the end of the week and provincial officials say more details are to come as the rollout of vaccines continues.

Greenfield now under construction

The Independent

The signs are up as Petrolia begins its construction season.

The town held an open house for residents of Greenfield Street - the site of this year’s major construction project - Monday. By Tuesday, construction signs were up and the first workers were busy along the street.

Officials say residents won’t be able to drive on the construction site between 7 am and 7 pm.

As with past construction projects, residents are expected to find a spot in a municipal parking lot during the day and return their cars to their own driveways after 7 pm.

Engineer Dave Graham told residents both the road and the sidewalks would be slightly wider once construction is complete in September. Some, but not


all of the underground services will be replaced. A plastic pipe for waste water didn’t need to be replaced, says Graham.

Construction will start at Petrolia Line right to the end of the road at CEEH. Included in the work is the paving of two municipal parking lots at Victoria Hall and the storage area at the corner of Walnut and Greenfield.

The town also plans to install a crosswalk right in front of Victoria Playhouse Petrolia to allow theatre patrons to easily cross the road into the municipal parking lot.

Until now, theatre staff stopped traffic to allow the visitors safe passage.

Once town hall reopens after the province wide Stay at Home order, ratepayers will be asked to use Wingfield Street to access the municipal offices.



Your turn is coming soon.

Ontario’s COVID-19 vaccine plan is helping to stop the spread and save lives. Thousands of people across the province are getting vaccinated every day.

As vaccinations continue, we need to stay the course to protect those we love. Wear a mask. Wash your hands. Keep your distance.

Find out when, where and how to get vaccinated at ontario.ca/covidvaccineplan or call 1-888-999-6488 for assistance in more than 300 languages.

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